

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /061 W

----- 124606

R 200905Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4030

UNCLAS TOKYO 10799

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: DETAILED ANALYSIS SANKEI TELEPHONE POLL ON PRESIDENTIAL
CHANGEOVER

REF: TOKYO 10549

1. POST'S ANALYSIS OF GROUP BREAKS PROVIDED BY SANKEI SHIMBUN
ON AUGUST 9 TOKYO-OSAKA TELEPHONE POLL ON RESIGNATION OF
PRESIDENT NIXON PROVIDES FEW SURPRISES.

2. QUESTION ONE: (REACTION TO NIXON RESIGNATION) SUPPORTERS OF
ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, THOSE WHO GAVE ONLY POLITICAL TENDENCIES
BUT NO POLITICAL PARTY, AND THOSE DESCRIBING THEMSELVES AS
POLITICALLY NEUTRAL ALL AGREED THAT EX-PRESIDENT NIXON HAD NO
ALTERNATIVE TO RESIGNATION, WITH RANGE FROM 65 PERCENT FOR THIS
RESPONSE (DSP) TO 84 PERCENT (JCP). THOSE WHO DESCRIBED NIXON
RESIGNATION AS "COURAGEOUS DEED" RELATIVELY HIGH AMONG DSP
SUPPORTERS (24 PERCENT), KOMEITO SUPPORTERS (17 PERCENT) AND
LDP ADHERENTS (15 PERCENT). RESPONDENTS DESCRIBING THEMSELVES
AS JCP SUPPORTERS OR NON-PARTY "PROGRESSIVES" INCLUDED ONLY
5 PERCENT WHO CONSIDERED RESIGNATION "COURAGEOUS" AND HIGHEST
PERCENTAGE (84 PERCENT) WHO THOUGHT EX-PRESIDENT
HAD NO OTHER CHOICE. ONE OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION GROUPS PROVIDED
ANY SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVES (C) AND (D).

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3. QUESTION TWO: SUPPORTERS OF JCP (38 PERCENT), KOMEITO (31

PERCENT) NON-PARTY "PROGRESSIVES" (30 PERCENT) AND THOSE WHO GAVE NO POLITICAL AFFILIATION (29 PERCENT) WERE MOST INCLINED VIEW RESIGNATION AS EVIDENCE OF PLITICAL CORRUPTION IN AMERICA. JSP ADHERENTS WERE IN VAN (WITH 49 PERCENT) OF THOSE ATTRIBUTING IT TO SOUND DEMOCRACY IN THE USA. JCP (53 PERCENT) AND KOMEITO (29 PERCENT) MORE SKEPTICAL THIS EXPLANATION. LDP SUPPORTERS AND ON-PARTY PROGRESSIVES TIED IN SUPPORT OF U.S. DEMOCRACY AT 45 PERCENT WITH NON-PARTY CONSERVATIVES 44 PERCENT AND POLITICALLY NEUTRAL 38 PERCENT. YOUNGER RESPONDENTS WERE MORE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE RESIGNATION TO "POLITICAL CORRUPTION," OLDER ONES TO "SOUND DEMOCRACY."

4. QUESTION 3: (ELEMENTS WITHIN U.S. SOCIETY WHICH STIMULATED RESIGNATION) TENDENCY EMPHASIZE CONGRESS, NEWS MEDIA, AND PUBLIC OPINION FOUND IN ALL POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS, BUT SOME INTERESTING DIFFERENCES. 35 PERCENT OF JCP ADHERENTS AND 26 PERCENT OF KOMEI FOLLOWERS ATTRIBUTED DECISION TO PERSONS CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT, WHILE OTHER POLITICAL COLORATIONS BUNCHED CLOSER TO TOTAL-SAMPLE AVERAGE OF 15 PERCENT. NON-PARTY "PROGRESSIVES" (72 PERCENT) AND JSP SUPPORTERS (65 PERCENT) WERE MOST IMPRESSED BY ROLE OF NEWS MEDIA. JCP AND DSP (BOTH JUST UNDER 30 PERCENT) GAVE THE LEAST WEIGHT TO ROLE OF CONGRESS.

5. QUESTION 4 (IMAGE OF AMERICA): YOUNGER RESPONDENTS LESS INCLINED FEEL THAT INCIDENT IMPROVED THEIR IMAGE OF USA, WHILE OLDER MEMBERS OF SAMPLE MORE POSITIVE. THOSE WHOSE RESPONSE TO QUESTION TWO EMPHASIZED SOUND U.S. DEMOCRACY WERE MORE LIKELY TO CONSIDER THEIR IMAGE OF AMERICA IMPROVED THAN THOSE WHO HAD EMPHASIZED POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

6. QUESTION 5 (EFFECT ON US-JAPAN RELATIONS): VARIATIONS AMONG POLITICAL GROUPINGS NOT LARGE, WITH GREAT MAJORITY EXPECTING NO CHANGE. ONLY POLITICAL AFFILIATION WITH SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE EXPECTING POSSIBLE DETERIORATION IN RELATIONSHIP WAS LDP SUPPORTERS (6 PERCENT). PALM FOR OPTIMISM ABOUT FUTURE OF RELATIONSHIP WENT TO JCP SUPPORTERS, WITH 84 PERCENT EXPECTING NO CHANGE, 3 PERCENT EXPECTING THINGS TO GET BETTER, AND ZERO ANTICIPATING DETERIORATION.

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UM VARIATIONS BY OCCUPATION NOT MARKED, ESPECIALLY TO Q4 AND Q5. SALARIED WORKERS AND ARTISANS/SHOPKEEPERS MOST INCLINED TO CONSIDER RESIGNATION SHOWED SOUNDNESS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, WHILE STUDENTS AND UNEMPLOYED/OTHER MOST LIKELY ASCRIBE RESIGNATION TO CORRUPTION. 27 PERCENT OF UNEMPLOYED/OTHER, HIGHEST PERCENTAGE ANY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP, CONSIDERED NIXON RESIGNATION "COURAGEOUS." ACT."

MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLING STATIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO10799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740228-1162
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740832/aaaabayq.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 10549
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETAILED ANALYSIS SANKEI TELEPHONE POLL ON PRESIDENTIAL CHANGEOVER
TAGS: PINT, US, JA, (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005